

NC Standards – High Performing Local Workforce Development Boards

Technical Assistance Guide

Introduction

The North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development has adopted standards for the state's workforce development boards. Prior to any official reviews to determine compliance with those standards, local workforce development boards will be reviewing their own activities to determine where they stand with respect to meeting the standards and to determine, as necessary, what work remains to be done to achieve compliance prior to the commencement of official compliance reviews. This Technical Assistance Guide is intended to assist boards by providing definitions and explanations of terminology used in the standards to ensure uniform understanding of the products required by those standards.

Background

The standards for high performing local workforce development boards were adopted at the August 23, 2006 meeting of the Commission on Workforce Development. The standards will become effective with the Program Year beginning July 1, 2007. However, the period between now and June 30, 2008 will be used by local workforce development boards to review their positions relative to the standards and take any actions necessary to position themselves to meet the standards by the time formal assessments begin after July 1, 2008.

A basic tenet of the Commission on Workforce Development is that all local workforce development boards should be in a position to meet the standards. That is, there is no intent to differentiate among boards (some better than others) or to set up a system where there are intentionally some winners and some losers. The ideal outcome would be for all boards to meet the standards during the first year of implementation. Thus, there is a long preparation period and a phased approach to implementation. Some local workforce development boards may have more work to do than others.

While consisting of seven different elements, the standards can essentially be broken down into those that address the strategic activities of local workforce development boards and standards that address compliance activities. The compliance activities are straightforward and should be things that local boards have been doing all along. There may need to be an explanation of what time periods are covered when reviewing compliance, but the activities themselves should not require much additional discussion. The focus needs to be on the strategic intent of the first three standards. This Technical Assistance Guide will concentrate only on the strategic responsibilities.